

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Gibson Wright Mill House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wright Mill Rd., .5 mile south of Island Creek Rd. (east)

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Henry Mushaw

Telephone #:(301) 476-3371

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21073

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 274

Folio #: 340

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wright's Mill House is situated northeast of Trappe at the upper reaches of Miles Creek. It is on a large farm and overlooks a field and the ruins of the mill across the stream.

The building is a substantial two part brick dwelling, both three bays long, but one being two storys and the other one and one-half storys. The taller part has extraordinarily fine brickwork of uniform color with convex joints. Above the windows and doors the rubbed and gauged jack arches splay very widely. Both facades are about the same, with central door having transom and paneled jambs. The windows have 9/6 sash on the first story and 6/6 sash on the second. Two chimneys rise from the moderately pitched 'A' roof, the west chimney being built largely on the outside wall. It is flanked by two windows on each story, the attic windows being casements.

The wing is lower than the taller part as is customary in early farm houses. Across its south facade is a leanto porch, part of which is enclosed. There is a door and window exposed beneath the porch roof and a door between the kitchen and enclosure of the porch. Two windows light each side of the 'A' roof. The kitchen fireplace is partly exposed on the east gable. Three windows on the first story appear original.

The interior has been changed very little. In the large section are three rooms, a large living room accessible from the central doors. From the living room there is access on the south side to the stair and from the stair hall access is gained to the dining room. Doors to both above mentioned rooms open from the middle kitchen (present use). A stair rises in the southeast corner of the room. Beyond, on the very east end is the original kitchen with large cooking fireplace.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gibson Wright's House is a superior Federal style country dwelling. Most of the details which exist, both outside and inside are original to the early 19th century. It is evidence of the prosperity of the profession of millers in Maryland, like the millers house at Wye Mills and others throughout the area.

The plan of the building is unique. Usually where there is a separate stair hall in one corner of the building that room also serves as the entrance. This arrangement is similar to Steele Howard's Federal House at Fredericktown, Cecil County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, H.C., Old Building, Gardens and Furniture of Tidewater Maryland, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, 1967, p.114.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

March, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Abbott's Mill House

AND/OR COMMON

Wright's Mill House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wright's Mill Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

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NAME

Henry Mushaw

Telephone #: 476-3371

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md. 21673**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 274

Folio #: 340

STREET & NUMBER

Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Md. Hist. Trust

DATE

1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Md. Hist. Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Md.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A number of owners followed in rapid succession and it is probable that none of them made an effort to continue the mill operation. The enormous industrial complexes of the twentieth century made this type of individual effort no longer economically practical. William Valliant, Mrs. Alton Jones and Alfred Roberts were short-term owners until Henry Mushaw bought the property in 1947. He and his wife took title to the miller's house, the mill seat, with its machinery and equipment, forty four acres in all.

There is an old graveyard nearby, where Gibson Wright and his wife are buried. The old mill itself is now gone, but fortunately, H. Chandlee Forman made a thorough study of it, with photographs and drawings and measurements during the last stages of its existence from 1956 to 1962. The mill had been an essential part of subsistence for the local people for over two centuries. The old house stands as mute testimony to the prosperity of those early millers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1670- 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Abbott, circa 1810

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- L1/106 1670 The first mention of the Abbott family as residents of Talbot County is in 1670 when Samuel Abbott bought a few acres of the Catlin's Plains grant at the head of Island Creek. From this meager beginning he added another hundred acres called Beaver Dam, on the north side of the headwaters of Miles Creek. This Beaver Dam purchase was the site of the first mill that Samuel Abbott put into operation. There are early and continual references all through the eighteenth century land records to the Abbott's Mill Road. By 1783 Samuel Abbott, a grandson of the first Samuel, was assessed for a framed dwelling house at Beaver Dam, as well as framed quarters, a logged kitchen, meat house, milk house, stable and two water mills, all in bad repair. The total value was £ 412.13.8. By 1798 the same dwelling and other outbuildings still stood, but there was now only one mill house, of two stories, the lower portion of brick and the upper story of frame.
- L37/F206 1815 Samuel Abbott died and left his estate to his son William. William had taken out a mortgage from William Jenkins, but the heirs of William Abbott were not able to make the payments and a Court of Equity sitting at the Talbot County Courthouse in 1820 ordered the Mill house and Mill to be sold to settle the claims of Jenkins. Joseph Martin, as Trustee, passed the title of several adjoining tracts, including the mill, to Nicholas Hammond, councillor, for the sum of \$2900.00. Nicholas Hammond was president of the Farmer's Bank in Easton, a State legislator, and one of the outstanding citizens of the county. He no doubt leased out the mill property. At his death in 1830 he left his estate to his son Dr. Nicholas Hammond who also died shortly after his father. It was from Dr. Hammond's estate that the house and mill were sold to Gibson W. Wright.
- L53/F121 1837 It remained in the possession of the Wright family until 1885 when, by virtue of a deed of trust, William T. Wright to Oswald Tilghman, the 235 acres were purchased for \$8500.00.
- L103/F340 1885 Again the property was mortgaged and again the payments were in default and it was ordered sold by a Court of Equity. The sale was made by F. Carroll Goldsborough, Trustee, to Thomas T. Smith for \$2500.00. Mr. Smith owned the property until 1924 when he sold it to William J. Price for \$2250.00.
- L197/F420 1924
- CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Talbot County Courthouse: Land deeds, Wills, Inventories, Chancery Court
Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture of Tidewater Md. - H. Chandlee Forman
Tidewater Publishers - Cambridge, Md. 1967

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44.4 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Talbot County Com., Md. Hist. Trust

DATE June 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER % Mrs. R. Flanigan Shannahan, 15 N. Harrison St.

TELEPHONE 822-3060

CITY OR TOWN Easton, Md.

STATE Md. 21601

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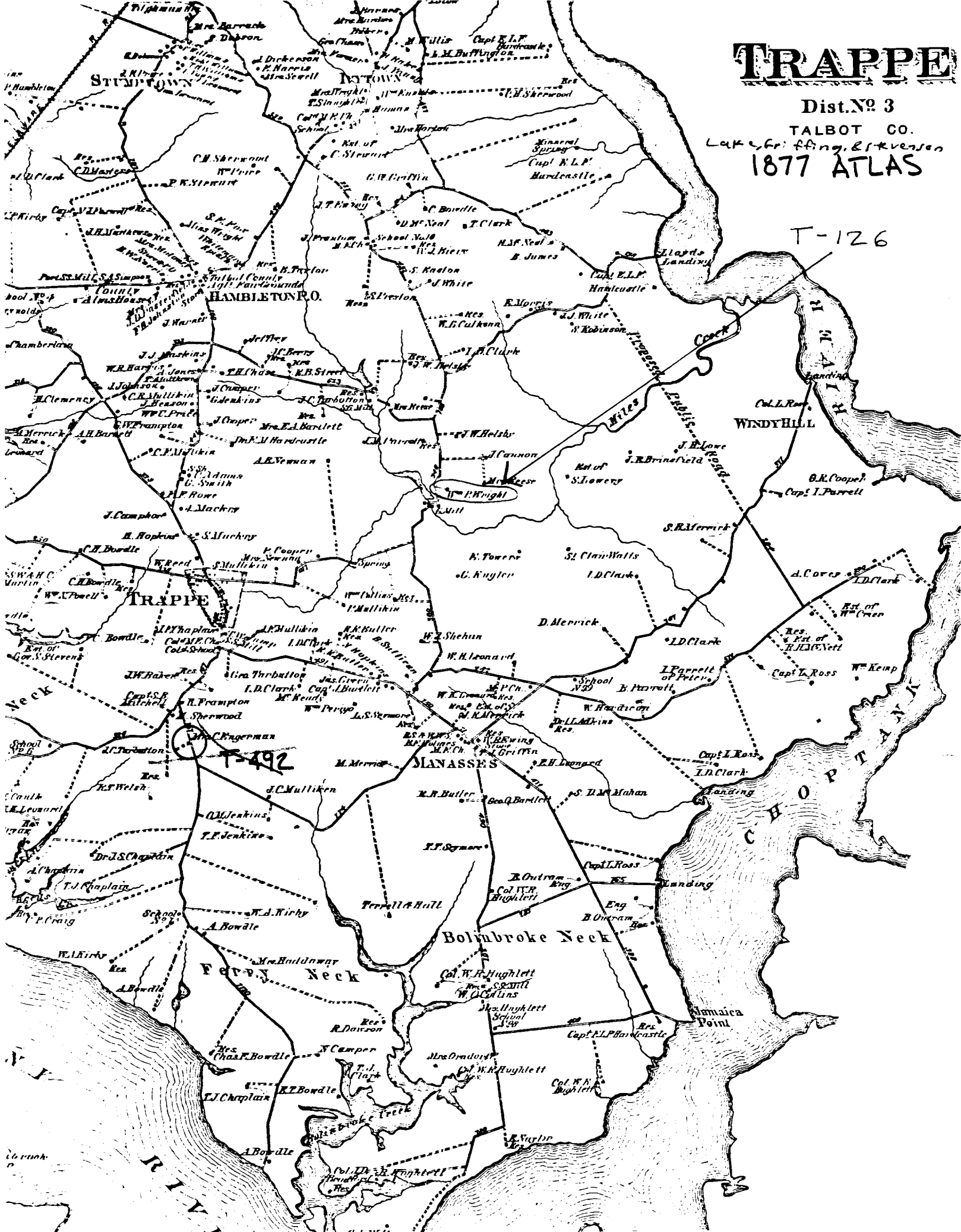
Dist. No 3
TALBOT CO.
Lake, Friessing, & Erickson
1877 ATLAS

TALBOT CO.

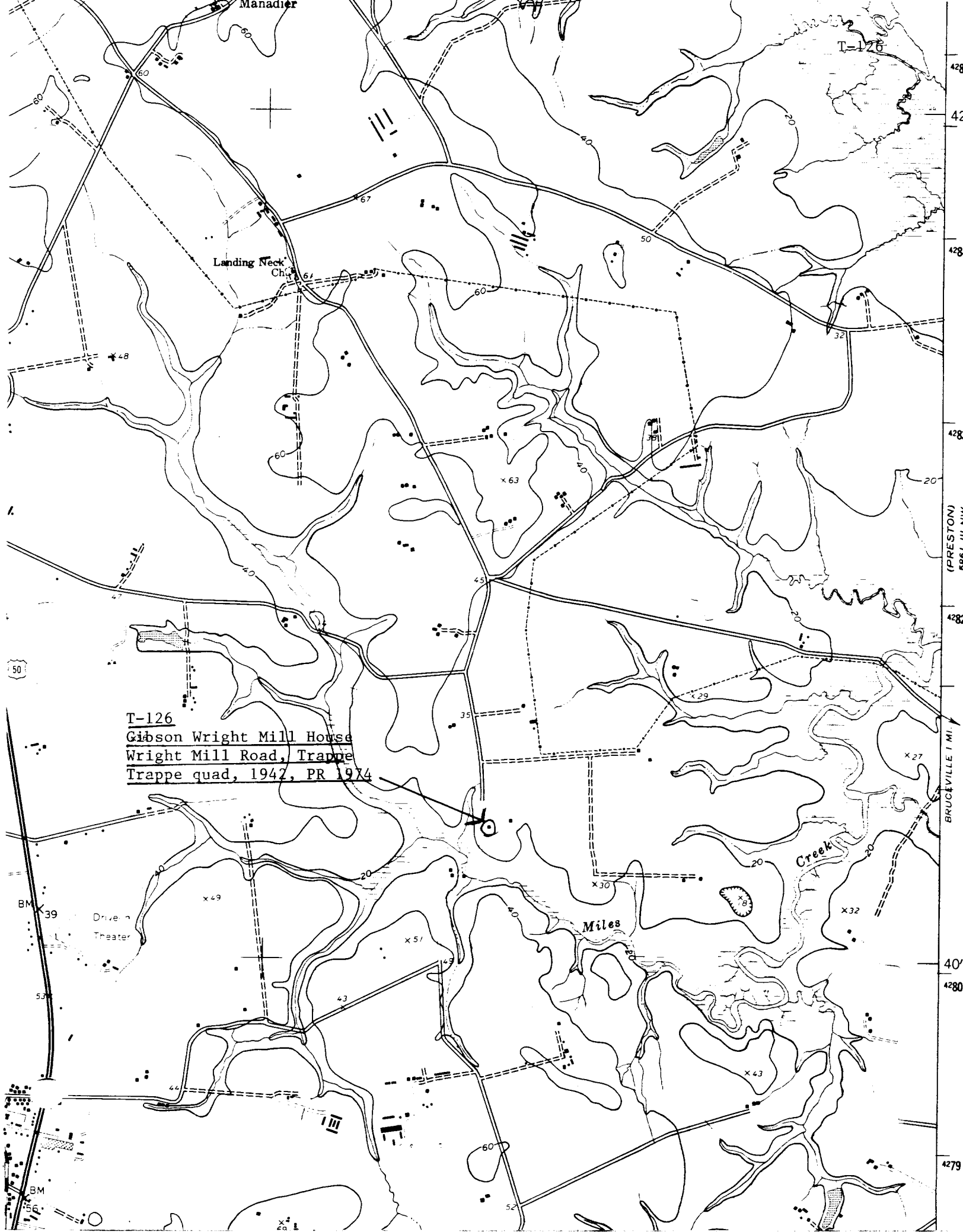
Lake, Griffithing, & Skverson

1877 ATLAS

T-126



T-126
Gibson Wright Mill House
Wright Mill Road, Trappe
Trappe quad, 1942, PR 1974





22 x 1.84

75% 126

Wright's Mill House

T-126

J. Hyles Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTER TOWN, MARYLAND

N.

M. Bourne

3/77



Wright's Mill House

T-126



J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

6.

Mr. Browne

3/77